

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5257

S E C R E T CAIRO 8519

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CF, GB, US
SUBJECT: CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR MOPOLO-DADET

REF: STATE 92269

1. CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR MOPOLO-DADET CALLED TODAY
AT HIS REQUEST. HE SAID HIS ASSIGNMENT TO CAIRO
TERMINATED AND THAT HE INTENDS TO LEAVE JUNE 18.
AS HE PUT IT, HE IS "RETIRING" FROM THE CONGOLESE
"ADMINISTRATION," BUT WILL STAY ON AS LECTURER
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT BRAZZAVILLE UNIVERSITY.

2. MOPOLO-DADET RECALLED THAT HE HAD LEFT CAIRO
LAST NOVEMBER TO ATTEND A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PARTY
CONFERENCE. AT THAT CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO HIM,
THE LATE CONGOLESE PRESIDENT NGOUABI HAD EXPERIENCED
DIFFICULTIES WITH WHAT MOPOLO-DADET FIRST CALLED
THE "LEFT WING OF THE PARTY," BUT LATER AMENDED
TO "THE INTRANSIGENTS OF THE PARTY," HE PROVIDED
NO NAMES. A DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE
THAT THE ENTIRE MATTER OF PARTY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
POLICIES WERE TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FULL PARTY
CONGRESS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 30 OF THIS YEAR.
AT THAT CONGRESS, ACCORDING TO MOPOLO-DADET, THE

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LATE PRESIDENT NGOUABI HOPED TO BRING THE "INTRANSIGENTS"
UNDER CONTROL.

3. TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE CONGRESS, NGOUABI HAD BEEN
MURDERED AT 1430 IN THE AFTERNOON IN HIS OWN HOME.
THERE ARE TWO HYPOTHESIS ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE ASSASSINATION. THE FIRST, HAVING IN MIND

DEEP NORTH/SOUTH DIVISION IN CONGO, ATTRIBUTES ASSASSINATION TO A SOUTHERN CONSPIRACY. THE SECOND HOLDS THAT THOSE IMMEDIATELY AROUND THE PRESIDENT, ALMOST ENTIRELY NORTHERNERS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER. THE RATIONALE IS THAT THESE WERE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHOSE POSITIONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PARTY CONGRESS WHICH NGOUADI WISHED TO HOLD; HENCE, THEY PREEMPTED NGOUABI BY GETTING RID OF HIM. NOPOLO-DADET, NOTING THAT HE TOO IS A NORTHERNER, SUBSCRIBES TO THE LATTER THEORY. HE CLAIMS, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTUAL MURDERER HAS NOT YET BEEN APPRENEHENDED.

4. THE PRESENT CONGO REGIME, MOPOLO-DADET RELATED, IS LARGELY MILITARY. NINE OUT OF THE ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ARE NORTHERNERS AND ONLY TWO ARE SOUTHERNERS. PRESIDENT YHOMBIOPANGO RELIES HEAVILY ON CUBAN ADVIERS, OF WHICH MOPOLO-DADET CLAIMS THERE ARE THREE THOUSAND IN CONGO.

5. ALLUDING TO CONGO GOVERNMENT'S OVERTURES TO USG ON RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, ABOUT WHICH HE SEEMED WELL INFORMED, MOPOLO-DADET CAUTIONED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS SIMPLY SEEKING A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. IF RELATIONS ARE RESUMED AND USG ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED, IT WILL RETURN TO ITS OLD "ARROGANCE" WITH RESULT THAT RELATIONS WILL AGAIN BE SEVERED BEFORE LONG. THE NEW GOVERNMENT, MOPOLO-DADET CONTENTED, HAS NO POPULAR ROOTS. IT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY MANY MEMBERS (HE CLAIMED THE MAJORITY) OF THE PARTY'S

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE, INCLUDING HIMSELF, WHO ARE SIMPLY BIDDING THEIR TIME FOR A FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE CONGO. HE URGED THAT THE USG NOTMOVE TOO RADPIDLY IN REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

6. AS HE WAS LEAVING, MOPOLO-DADET ADMITTED THAT HE IS NOT CERTAIN OF HIS OWN SAFETY WHEN HE RETURNS TO CONGO. NEVERTHELESS, HIS PRESENT INCLINATION IS TO DO SO BECAUSE HE WISHES TO BE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF WHAT HE CALLED "THE MOVEMENT" WHICH IS SEEKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE YHOMBIOPANGO GOVERNMENT. HE IS NOT TAKING HIS KENYA WIFE AND CHILDREN WITH HIM. INSTEAD, THEY WILL PROCEED TO KENYA. HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE WORKED OUT ELABORATE SCHEME WHEREBY, IF HE FINDS SITUATION IN CONGO UNSATISFACTORY, HE MAY BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON PRETEXT OF HAVING TO GO TO KENYA TO RECOVER HIS CHILDREN.

7. MOPOLO-DADET VOLUNTEERED THAT, BEFORE HE LEAVES,
HE WOULD PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS SO-CALLED
"MOVEMENT." I SIMPLY LISTENED AND AVOIDED ANY
SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

8. COMMENT: DEPT BEST ABLE TO EVALUATE RELIABILITY
OF MOPOLO-DADET'S OBSERVATIONS.
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